

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please find below a listing of all of the pending claims. The statuses of the claims are set forth in parentheses.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of responding to a request in a distributed system, said distributed system including a plurality of hosts, wherein each host is operable to respond to at least one type of request, the method comprising steps of:

receiving a multicasted message, said message including a request;

determining if said request is of a first type or a second type;

designating a subset of said plurality of hosts for said first and second types of request;

responding to said request if said request is of the first type; and a host of said plurality of hosts responding to said request is included in a subset for said first type of said request and; ignoring the host ignores said request if said request is of the second type;

wherein said step of responding further comprises determining whether responding to said request includes providing a state-changing response; generating multiple responses from multiple hosts in said subset for said first type of said request; transmitting said multiple responses to a client in response to said responding including a non-state-changing-response; and synchronizing said multiple responses by transmitting a single response in response to said multiple hosts in said subset generating the state-changing-response.

2. Canceled.

3. Canceled.

4. Canceled.

5. Canceled.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said step of synchronizing further comprises a step of designating a synchronizing host operable to facilitate transmitting the single response ~~one of said multiple responses~~ to said client.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said step of synchronizing further comprises steps of:

transmitting a message to each host in said subset for said first type of said request, said message indicating that a response has been transmitted to said client; and deleting said request from a queue for each host receiving said message.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said first and second types of requests includes one of a meta data request and a data request.

9. (Currently Amended) A distributed system comprising:

a plurality of hosts, each host being included in a subset of hosts operable to respond to at least a first or second type of request;

wherein each host is operable to receive a multicasted message including a request, determine whether the request is of the first or second type said request, and respond to the first type of request while ignoring the second type of request if the host is in a subset responding to the first type of request;

wherein multiple hosts in the subset for said first type of said request respond to the first type of said request and generate multiple responses from the multiple hosts in said subset for said first type of said request and determine whether responding to said request includes providing a state-changing response;

wherein said subset for said first type of said request includes a synchronization host, said synchronization host is operable to facilitate transmitting a single response to a client in response to said multiple hosts in said subset generating the state-changing response; and

wherein said multiple hosts in said subset transmit responses to said client in response to said multiple hosts in said subset generating a non-state-changing response.

10. Canceled.

11. Canceled.

12. Canceled.

13. Canceled.

14. (Previously Presented) The distributed system of claim 9, wherein said first and second type of requests includes one of a meta data request and a data request.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium on which is embedded a program, the program performing a method of responding to a request in a distributed system, said

distributed system including a plurality of hosts, wherein each host is operable to respond to at least one type of request, the method comprising steps of:

receiving a multicasted message, said message including a request;

determining if said request is of a first type or a second type;

responding to said request if said request is of the first type;

ignoring said request if said request is of the second type; and

designating a subset of said plurality of hosts for said first and second types of request;

wherein said step of responding further comprises a host of said plurality of hosts responding to said request in response to said host being included in a subset for said first type of said request; and

wherein said step of responding further comprises determining whether responding to said request includes providing a state-changing response; generating multiple responses from multiple hosts in said subset for said first type of said request; transmitting said multiple responses to a client in response to said responding including a non-state-changing-response; and synchronizing said multiple responses by transmitting a single response to said client in response to said multiple hosts in said subset generating the state-changing-response.

16. Canceled.

17. Canceled.

18. Canceled.

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19. Canceled.
20. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein said first and second types of requests includes one of a meta data request and a data request.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving a multicasted message comprises receiving a multicasted message via a network in the distributed system.
22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [4] 1, wherein the state-changing response includes changing a state of data stored in the host.
23. (Previously Presented) The distributed system of claim 9, wherein the plurality of hosts are connected to at least one network in the distributed system and are operable to receive the multicasted message via the at least one network.
24. (Currently Amended) The distributed system of claim ~~11~~ 9, wherein the state-changing response includes changing a state of data stored in a host in the subset.
25. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium of claim 15, wherein receiving a multicasted message comprises receiving a multicasted message via a network in the distributed system.
26. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim ~~18~~ 15, wherein the state-changing response includes changing a state of data stored in the host.

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27. Canceled.

28. Canceled.

29. Canceled.